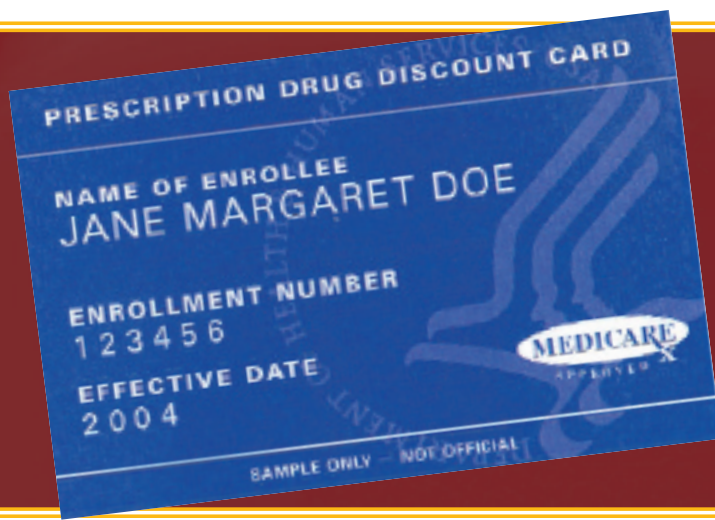


**Effective  
Immediately:  
The Medicare  
Drug Plan Helps  
Illinois Seniors  
Today.**



For seniors who choose to join the new plan, full prescription drug coverage for all seniors begins in 2006, but beginning this summer, seniors can receive a prescription drug discount card that will cut prescription drug costs by 10%-25%. An annual \$600 credit will be added to the discount cards of low income seniors.



U.S. House of  
Representatives

WASHINGTON, DC 20515

**PUBLIC DOCUMENT  
OFFICIAL BUSINESS**

This mailing was prepared, published  
and mailed at taxpayer expense.

*Jerry Weller*  
M.C.  
PRSRT STD



## ***The Choice Is Yours.***

**A DETAILED LOOK AT THE VOLUNTARY AND AFFORDABLE  
MEDICARE PRESCRIPTION DRUG PLAN.**

***FROM CONGRESSMAN JERRY WELLER***



***Which Path Is  
Right for You?***

***The Choice Is Yours.***

Congress and the President have worked to offer  
a new path to healthy living for those who need it.



Information and answers to your  
questions about the new,  
**COMPLETELY VOLUNTARY  
AND AFFORDABLE**  
Medicare Prescription Drug Plan.

UNITED STATES REPRESENTATIVE  
**JERRY WELLER**  
SERVING ILLINOIS' 11TH DISTRICT





*"It's extremely important to me that you are informed about the new Medicare prescription drug plan, what it means to you and why this legislation was such a priority for Congress and the President. Please contact my office or MEDICARE if you have any further questions or concerns we can help with."*

Medicare:  
1-800-Medicare  
(1-800-633-4227)  
[www.medicare.gov](http://www.medicare.gov)

**Congressman Jerry Weller**  
Washington Office: 202-225-3635  
District Office: 815-740-2028  
[www.house.gov/weller](http://www.house.gov/weller)

## HELPING THOSE IN NEED

*While this new Medicare Prescription Drug Plan isn't perfect, it is a good start and it accomplishes the goals Congress and the President hoped to reach:*

- To help the 12 million low-income, poverty level seniors who need it the most – those who are having to choose between food and the medicines they need.
- To give more seniors access to more prescription drugs at a lower cost.
- To give seniors choice and control over their prescription drug plans.
- To allow seniors who already have prescription drug coverage to stay with their plan if they like it.

MEDICARE

## THE SAME TRUSTED FRIEND YOU'VE ALWAYS KNOWN

First and foremost, Congressman Jerry Weller supported this voluntary prescription drug plan because it allows seniors to stay with their employer-paid or any other prescription drug plan they may have. Seniors who choose not to enroll in the new prescription drug plan will see no change to their current Medicare benefits or services.

***No senior will be pressured into anything – not an HMO, not a new drug benefit, not anything.***



## A HELPFUL BENEFIT TO LIMIT DRUG COSTS FOR THOSE IN NEED

### Limiting Drug Costs

Pays 75% of drug costs and 95% of catastrophic drug costs

- Seniors who choose to enroll in the program will receive drug discount cards this spring, entitling them to savings of up to 25% off the cost of their medications.
- In 2006, seniors who have signed up for the new benefit will pay a monthly premium of about \$35.
- After a \$250 deductible, Medicare will cover 75% of a senior's drug costs up to \$2250.
- After a senior's out-of-pocket drug costs reach \$3600, Medicare will cover 95%!

### Helping Low Income Seniors the Most

Nearly complete coverage for 12 million low income seniors

- As part of their discount cards, low-income seniors will receive a \$600 cash subsidy in 2004 and 2005 to defray the costs of their medications.
- Seniors with incomes lower than the federal poverty level will see their drug bills virtually eliminated – their deductible and monthly premiums will be waived and their co-pays will be as little as \$1 per prescription.

### Encourages Employers to Offer Prescription Drug Coverage

Protects and safeguards employer paid coverage

- The new prescription drug benefit offers employers 28 cents for every dollar they spend on prescription drug benefits for their retirees.
- This is an incentive for them to retain the coverage they offer to their retirees. This is the first time ever that Congress has acted to encourage employer paid coverage.

### New Plan Is Widely Supported

Independent Senior Groups Call Plan A Good Step Toward Better and More Affordable Health Care

- The AARP, the American Medical Association, the American Hospital Association and more than 300 groups support this new Medicare prescription drug plan.
- The biggest supporters of this bill are not pharmaceutical companies, they are patients' rights groups, seniors-advocacy organizations, healthcare providers, doctors, nurses, and other healthcare professionals who have made quality healthcare and services their priority.

## Countdown to Full Prescription Drug Coverage

Today	This Month	This Summer	January 1, 2006
To estimate how much you might save under this plan, check the Drug Cost Calculator. It's available at <a href="http://www.gop.gov/medicare/gopdrugcalc.htm">www.gop.gov/medicare/gopdrugcalc.htm</a>	Check your mailbox this month for information from Medicare about the prescription drug coverage choices you'll soon have.	Seniors can get a prescription drug discount card that will cut costs by 10 to 25 percent. Qualifying low-income seniors get an annual \$600 credit on their discount cards.	The full Medicare prescription drug plan takes effect. Seniors will have choices, and extra help will go to low-income seniors and those with high medicine costs.

